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Letter dated 26 March 2018 from the Permanent Representative of Egypt to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General and the President of the Security Council

I am writing in response to the letter dated 9 March 2018 from the Chargé d'affaires a.i. of the Permanent Mission of the Sudan to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council (S/2018/215). The Arab Republic of Egypt finds it deplorable that the Sudan should repeatedly seek to use the Security Council as a forum in which to promote its false claims about Egypt. The above-mentioned letter is the most clear-cut example of the efforts of the Sudan to do just that.

Egypt reaffirms that conducting polling in the Hala'ib electoral district for the presidential election is not something that is unprecedented. In fact, it is something that is quite normal given that all territory north of the 22nd parallel of latitude north falls within one of the electoral districts of Egypt. Polling takes place in that territory for presidential, parliamentary and local elections, as well as for public referendums, in accordance with the Egyptian Constitution and the relevant laws. All the measures that are being taken by the Egyptian authorities in Hala'ib and Shalatin are consistent with the exercise of their inherent powers and the fulfilment of their responsibility to develop every region of the country and serve the interests of all Egyptian citizens.

We shall not address the claims set out in the above-mentioned letter of the Sudan, because we have responded to and refuted each and every one of them in the relevant letters that the Permanent Representative of Egypt to the United Nations has addressed to the President of the Security Council, the most recent of which was the letter dated 19 March 2018 (S/2018/258). In all those letters, we have reaffirmed that the international border between Egypt and the Sudan runs along the 22nd parallel of latitude north. This fact is based on a clear and well-established legal basis, namely, the agreement that was concluded in January 1899 between the Government of Her Majesty the Queen of Great Britain and His Highness the Khedive of Egypt. It is well-established that Egypt has sovereignty and jurisdiction over its land and maritime territory north of that line, and that the territory of the Sudan includes those lands that are to the south of the 22nd parallel of latitude north.

The Arab Republic of Egypt hereby declares that it rejects and does not recognize any action that the Sudan has taken, or might take in the future, to suggest that it has territorial rights north of the 22nd parallel of latitude north. Moreover, it considers any such action to be a breach by the Sudan of its international obligations, for which it can be held internationally responsible.

Egypt once again draws attention to the repeated efforts of the Sudan to occupy the Security Council with false claims and notes that the practice of the Sudan is at

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odds with the ongoing efforts of Egypt to bolster and develop relations between our fraternal countries and peoples.

I should be grateful if the present letter could be circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Mohamed Fathi Ahmed **Edrees**
Ambassador
Permanent Representative